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A ABSTRACT

An image processing method of extracting the points of a path following a threadlike structure in an image (IP) formed by a grid of Potential points, comprises : a first processing step (4) of performing a first path-tracking operation using a front marching technique denoted Filiation Front Marching Technique (FFM) for supplying at least one First Track of the threadlike structure, formed by succeeding points denoted Fathers and Children, by marching a Front of points forwards from a fixed Start point (A) to a fixed End point (B), and a second processing step (5) of performing a second path-tracking operation using said Filiation Front Marching Technique for supplying a Best Path from one First Track by back propagating the Front starting at the End Point and going through already determined Children and Fathers until the Start Point is reached. An X-ray apparatus is proposed, having means for carrying out said method of improving the visualization of catheter guide-wire.

A Figure 1.**A Application : Medical Imaging , X-ray Apparatus.**